

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CANBER 05949 020226Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /017 W

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R 020131Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1931

S E C R E T CANBERRA 5949

STADIS//////////

EYES ONLY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SNEIDER FROM AMBASSADOR
GREEN

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OVIP, AS, US

SUBJ: DEFENSE MINISTER BARNARD VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: A) STATE 206904 B) STATE 213716

1. I FULLY CONCUR IN AND HEARTILY ENDORSE YOUR
DETERMINED EFFORTS TO ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN
DEFMIN BARNARD AND SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER
DURING BARNARD'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON.
WE HAVE NOT AS YET BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THE DATES
FOR BARNARD'S VISIT IN EARLY JANUARY AS PROPOSED IN
PARA 2 REF B. WE SHALL PURSUE THE MATTER, HOWEVER,
AND LET YOU KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
SCHLESINGER AGREE TO MEET BARNARD DURING LATTER'S
FORTHCOMING VISIT. BARNARD HAS MADE POINT PUBLICLY
IN AUSTRALIA THAT HE EXPECTS TO MEET WITH SCHLESINGER
AND IF THIS SHOULD NOT HAPPEN FOR ANY REASON, INABILITY
TO ARRANGE SUCH MEETING IN WASHINGTON WILL BE INTER-
PRETED IN AUSTRALIA AS GOOD DEAL MORE THAN MINOR
SLIGHT. BARNARD HAS BEEN STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF
MAINTINING U.S. FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA, AS YOU

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WELL KNOW. ALTHOUGH HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON WILL BE

IN CONNECTION WITH NEGOTIATIONS ON NORTHWEST CAPE, OUR AGREEMENTS WITH AUSTRALIA FOR OTHER TWO MAJOR FACILITIES AT PINE GAP AND WOOMERA ARE ALSO IN THE BALANCE. IF BY ANY FLUKE WE SHOULD NOT REACH AGREEMENT ON AMENDING CURRENT NORTHWEST CAPE AGREEMENT WITH GOA AT THIS TIME, IT WOULD BE ONLY SHORT WHILE BEFORE QUESTIONS WOULD AGAIN BEGIN TO BE ASKED ABOUT OUR OTHER INSTALLATIONS HERE.

3. IN ALL OF THIS BARNARD IS KEY PERSONALITY. HIS CLOSENESS TO PRIME MINISTER, WHOSE SUPPORT HE FULLY ENJOYS, IS MATTER OF RECORD. HE HAS FOR A PERIOD OF YEARS BEEN CLOSE CONFIDANT AND SUPPORTER OF PRIME MINISTER AND ACTS WITH PRIME MINISTER'S CONFIDENCE AS DEPUTY LEADER OF ALP IN PARLIAMENT. WHITLAM HAS BEEN VERY CAREFUL TO MAKE SURE BARNARD HAS BEEN PRESENT IN AUSTRALIA WHEN WHITLAM HIMSELF IS ON TRIPS ABROAD IN ORDER TO PREVENT OTHER MINISTERS FROM ATTEMPTING TO USURP PM'S ROLE. TO SUM IT UP, I BELIEVE IT IS NOT ONLY IN OUR INTEREST IN SUPPORT OF OUR DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS IN AUSTRALIA THAT SCHLESINGER MAKE A POINT OF SEEING BARNARD, BUT IT IS ALSO IN THE INTEREST OF OUR BROADER DEFENSE AND BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA AS A WHOLE.

4. I HAVE MENTIONED ALL THE FOREGOING TO CARL DUCKETT WHO VISITED CANBERRA ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO. CARL VOLUNTEERED TO RAISE THESE MATTERS IN AN INFORMAL AND FRIENDLY WAY WITH HIS OLD COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND SCHLESINGER. IF MY MEMORY IS CORRECT, CARL SHOULD BE BACK IN WASHINGTON ABOUT NOW AND HOPEFULLY WILL FIND TIME TO TALK TO SCHLESINGER ABOUT THIS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I WOULD MUCH PREFER THIS MATTER TO BE HANDLED DISCREETLY AND GRACEFULLY BY CARL AND YOURSELF IF THAT IS POSSIBLE HOWEVER, IF THIS APPROACH DOESN'T SEEM TO WORK, I WILL OF COURSE BE READY TO SEND IN A STRONG MESSAGE ALONG THE LINES OF PARAS 1 THROUGH 3 ABOVE.

5. IT OCCURS TO ME THAT THE TIMING OF EARLY JANUARY
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FOR BARNARD'S VISIT IS GOOD FROM SEVERAL POINTS OF VIEW, PROVIDING SCHLESINGER IS AVAILABLE. I TRUST DUCKETT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL WITH SCHLESINGER. IF HE IS NOT, LET ME KNOW AND WE WILL BEND OUR EFFORTS TOWARD GETTING YOU THE KIND OF CABLE THAT WILL SERVE THE PURPOSE.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CANBER05949
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731159/aaaabrkg.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: A) STATE 206904 B) STATE 213716
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Nov-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <13-Dec-2001 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEFENSE MINISTER BARNARD VISIT TO WASHINGTON
TAGS: OVIP, AS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005